THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) and (b) All India Radio and Doordarshan do not normally broadcast/telecast any special programmes on anniversaries of authors, poets, writers etc. of any language. However depending on public interest, programmes on eminent writers are arranged on special occasions. Coverage is also provided to public functions arranged by public organisations in connection with the birth and death anniversaries of eminent persons including writers.

All India Radio has already broadcast talks on the anniversaries of some of the eminent and celebrated Urdu writers and more programmes are scheduled in the near future. Doordarshan has also telecast programmes on the eminent Urdu personalities and has planned to produce programmes on eminent Urdu Writers/Poets like Pt. Brij Mohan Dataraya Kaji, Maulana Abdul Haleem Sharar, Kazi Abdul Ghaffar, Mirza Parthatullah Beg and Pt. Mela Ram Wafa and others.

National Rural Employment Programme in Uttar Pradesh

2153. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent under the National Rural Employment programme in Uttar Pradesh during the last two financial years;

(b) the rates of wages fixed and paid to workers engaged under NREP during the same period; and

(c) the number of families in the rural areas of the State covered by this scheme during the same period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) The amount spent under National Rural Employment Programme (NREP) in Uttar Pradesh during the last 2 years i.e. 1986-87 and 1987-88 is Rs. 110.79 crores and Rs. 125.69 crores respectively.

(b) Rates of wages fixed in Uttar Pradesh for payment of workers engaged under NREP has been Rs. 11.50 upto November, 1987 and Rs. 13.50 thereafter.

(c) The performance under NREP is monitored in terms of employment generated in mandays and not in terms of families covered under the scheme. During the years 1986-87 and 1987-88 employment generated under the programme in Uttar Pradesh comes to 465.23 lakh mandays and 553.51 lakhs mandays respectively.

Telecast of "Ramayana" serial

2154. SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the terms of agreement with producer of 'Ramayana' serial to telecast it on Doordarshan;

(b) the total amount paid for the exhibition; and

(c) by when additional episodes of 'Ramayana' are likely to be telecast on Doordarshan?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): (a) The Serial 'Ramayana' was telecast on Doordarshan under the following terms:

1. Rs. 1.05 lakhs per episode with 135 seconds free commercial time (FCT) and two credit lines of 10 Seconds each from January 25, 1987 to February 1987.

2. Rs. 1.5 lakhs per episode with 135 seconds (FCT) and 2 credit lines of